

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/729,346	SAKO, TSUKASA
	Examiner Abolfazl Tabatabai	Art Unit 2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to RCE filed on April 2, 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-36.
3. The drawings filed on 12 May 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. <u>5/12/05</u> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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Request for Continued Examination

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 02, 2004, has been entered.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest, image processing system for processing photographic images comprising (a) determining an arrangement of said images within said output area and executing said arrangement on the basis of an arrangement result obtained by said first arrangement means and an arrangement result obtained by said second arrangement means in combination into other elements and features of claims 1,10,19 and 20; (b) an image arrangement step of arranging within the output area the images from which the predetermined area has been deleted in said deletion step in combination into other elements and features of claims 27 and 32 .

3. **Claims 1-36 are allowed.**

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Citation of Relevant Prior Art

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

U. S. Patent (5,123,056) to Wilson is cited for whole-leg X-ray image processing and display techniques.

U. S. Patent (5,272,760) to Echerer et al is cited for radiographic image evaluation apparatus and method.

U. S. Patent (5,644,611) to McShane et al is cited for method and apparatus for maximizing the number of radiological images displayed on a display screen.

U. S. Patent (5,351,677) to Kami et al is cited for medical system having object information reproduction means for palpation.

U. S. Patent (6,542,579 B1) to Takasawa is cited for X-ray photo-taking system, X-ray photo-taking image display method, and storage medium.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to ABOLFAZL TABATABAI whose telephone number is (571) 272-7458.

The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mehta Bhavesh M, can be reached at (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abolfazl Tabatabai

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unit 2625

April 1, 2005

A-Tabatabai

Kanjibhai Patel
KANJI BHAI PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER